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Stroman Family

Stroman

Jim Steinwinder, 06:20 PM 3/26/96 , RE STROMAN

Return-Path: jimstein@datasync.com
Date: Tue, 26 Mar 1996 18:20:47 -0600
X-Sender: jimstein@datasync.com (Unverified)
To: nn105474@dasher.csd.sc.edu
From: Jim Steinwinder <jimstein@datasync.com>
Subject: RE STROMAN

Orangeburg, SC Equity Record

>From The Orangeburg Co, SC Commissioners Return Book

Page 51

Jacob Stroman vs Nicholas Stroman and Others.
Writ in Partition, Third Equity Circuit, Orangeburg District, SC.

John Smith, John Haigler, Philip S Jennings, George E Salley and Martin Friday Commissioners in Partition are charged to divide to Jacob Stroman 1/2 of a plantation containing 2,794 acres on Rockey (sic) Swamp, Edisto Fork bounded N on Jacob Stroman's land, William West, Peter Powers, and Gideon Hutto on E, S on Philip S Jennings, and W on Martin Salley and Martin Friday.

The other 1/2 is to be divided to Catharine (sic) Stroman the widow, Nicholas Stroman, Rebecca Stroman, Mary Stroman, and Selene Stroman, children of Michael Stroman deceased, the other half. signed by Samuel P Jones, 11-22-1826.

Commissioners report that a tract of 1048 acres appraised at \$2 per acre, lying on the lower line on west side of Rocky Swamp at its junction with Long Branch Creek, thence on the west side of the creek to the upper line. (Jim's note. What about this tract??)
To widow Catherine Stroman, and Nicholas, Rebecca, Mary, and Selene Stroman, the children of Michael Stroman, deceased, the other parcel containing 746 acres appraised at \$1.75 per acre. Because of the greater value assigned to Jacob Stroman, he is to pay \$395.25 to Catherine Stroman and children. 12-13-1826.

John Smith, P S Jennings, George E Salley, Martin Friday, and John Haigler.

Jim sends,

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Researching:
Steinwinder-Stivender-Collins
Holbrook-Dyches-Speed-Holman
Zorn-Stabler

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Richard Matteson, 10:27 PM 3/10/96 , Re: Stroman Family

Return-Path: mattesor@mary.iaa.org
Date: Sun, 10 Mar 1996 22:27:46 -0500 (EST)
From: Richard Matteson <mattesor@mary.iaa.org>
Subject: Re: Stroman Family
To: "Gene Jeffries, 30 Eastgrove Ct., Columbia, SC 29212"
<aa100176@dasher.csd.sc.edu>
Cc: Orangeburgh German-Swiss Genealogical Society
<nn105474@dasher.csd.sc.edu>

Gene, Thanks for your remarks concerning the Stroman Sketch by my grandmother- Edith Stroman Lofton. She would have been amazed to learn that so many interested persons would be "looking over her shoulder"! She was a very good student in Charleston in High School. All seven of her children graduated from college and surely their mother's interest in her own family was focused forward as it was backward to her roots. Her interest and dedication are probably continuing to pay off as a number of her grandchildren and great grandchildren are struggling to better understand the poetry and structure of their ancestor's reality. There is so much to find still....
Dick Matteson
College Park MD

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Gene Jeffries, 30 E, 07:07 PM 3/10/96 , Stroman Family

X-POP3-Rcpt: jimstein@osh1
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Dick,

Your posting of Mrs. Lofton's 1907 sketch of Jacob Stroman in Orangeburgh District was very interesting. Many of the genealogical facts can be verified in the Stroman Family Papers on file at the Carolinian Library, USC campus. However, no amount of legal type documents can replace such an eloquent, personal reminisce. Thank you very much. Ditto Dan's comments.

A few years ago I summarized about half of the Carolinian material (163

items (1758-1897)) and was hoping to merge the summaries of the original YOUN, STROMAN, and SALLEY family records into some type item for OGS-GS.

My greatest find in the Stroman papers was a survey for John Youn dated

27 Oct. 1787 for 457 acres. On the reverse, written in pencil was "Jesse

Youn's father was named John Yon" "Thom. Yon's father was named Simon Youn" Of course, the papers are filled with good information on the Hutto,

Felder, Salley, Corbitt, Jenning and other Orangeburg families.

Fred,

Thank you for your comments on the Hutto origins. I am not a Hutto researcher. And, I have never seen any positive reference to their origins. I have a copy of the A.D. Hutto article you reference and also

fairly confident info from Gail Hughes that Isaac Hutto was born 1695 in Switzerland of pure Swiss Helvetian stock. Also, Huxford Vol.2, pgs. 158,

159 was born in Germany in 1695. Nelda Martin gives birth about 1697 in

Sobernheim (?) Germany. Now to Bavaria, Germany. In the Bill Linder file,

(I believe you have a copy of the Hutto information by now) states Sarah

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Hutto was born 1726 probably in Bavaria, Germany. Bill Linder did not reference any proof and the information may have come from the Leonard Vernadeau family files?

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Richard Matteson, 02:17 PM 3/10/96 , 2nd installment/Stroman

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Date: Sun, 10 Mar 1996 14:17:03 -0500 (EST)
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2nd and Last Installment of sketch of Jacob Stroman of
Orangeburg
County, South Carolina by a granddaughter - Edith Stroman
Lofton

written in 1907

Grandfather gave to his only son, my father, the advantage of a good education. He sent him to several small boarding schools, then to the University of Virginia, which he attended until his graduation at that institution. After that, he was given a course in law and admitted to the bar.

Grandfather was well known throughout the county, continuing to increase the extent of his possessions and rapidly improving his land. I have heard that he purchased a plantation in Alabama, holding it a number of years but later selling it. For his daughter Ann (Mrs. Felder) he purchased a plantation near Orangeburg, making her a present of it. He bought the magnificent plantation of Dean Swamp, paying for it in gold, and gave it to my father.

I believe he was raised in the Methodist Church, of which he became a member, always remaining in good standing until his death.

He gave land for the Methodist Church, called the Rocky Swamp Church also contributing most of the material for it and having the work done by his own carpenters. It looks as if he was very unselfish in his choice of location as it was built fully five miles away from his dwelling, and as he and the family were regular attendants they had to drive five miles and back on Sunday. Rev. Lorie Pierce was an old preacher without a settled home, so Grandfather invited him to live at his home for the remainder of his life and engaged him to preach regularly to the slaves on the place. Rev. Pierce accepted his offer and became a highly respected member of the family. At his death, he was buried in the family graveyard a short distance down the road.

Grandfather was a great entertainer and noted for his

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hospitality. His wife made a cheerful, unselfish hostess. The house was often crowded to its utmost capacity for accomodations, beds even being made on the floor of a smaller room when the crowd was great. He received and entertained distinguished gentlemen of the state, sometimes the Governor would come and look over with him, his excellently arranged plantation. A train of vehicles containing invited guests, usually followed his carriage home to dinner on Sunday. I have been told that at times there would be twenty five different vehicles in the train.

The plantation produced home made provisions in such variety and abundance that Grandpa was heard to remark at the table, that they raised all their provisions except salt.

He paid strict attention to his orchard and sought to gather and cultivate a great variety of fruit trees. He was quite proud of a cork tree which he had obtained and planted in the flower garden. Then there was a great variety of grapes, apples, peaches, pears and several pomgranates and figs.

My brother in looking over some old papers found an account of sales of his cotton crop amounting to \$16,000.00 a year

They were accustomed to going to Charleston and Columbia on shopping expeditions; to the latter city they would drive in the carriage making the trip in one day.

Perhaps about the same time of the son's return from college, the life sized portraits now hanging in the parlor of his home were painted, of Grandpa about 50 years of age and one of my father. I have often gazed at each. That of Grandfather showed a stout gentleman with a florid complexion and white hair, marked features and very bright blue eyes.

At the age of 27, my father Charles Jacob Stroman was married to Caroline Juliet Millar, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Millar of Charleston, S.C. The young couple took up their residence at Grandfather's.

Grandfather was noted for having a very loud voice and strong lungs; he being in the habit of calling his orders to the miller at

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the mill, perhaps 3/4ths of a mile distant. Then I heard that Grandfather and Father were hunting in the swamp once and having killed a bear, called to a servant at the house to bring the wagon to him. The call was met with ready response. The swamp is one and a half miles from the house.

The house was furnished in good style. The silver kept in beautiful order on the sideboard, was very valuable. Grandpa seemed to have a constitutional dislike to affection of all kinds and prided himself on his plainness of speech. At his table was always laid the silver and glass furnishings for his guests and home folks, but at his plate the knife, three pronged fork and gourd he had used all his life. This habit he refused to give up. His wife, known to the children as Grandma Stroman, must have been an excellent person of agreeable, cheerful disposition- kindly and obliging. When all the children came, Grandpa and Grandma took great interest in them. All of my Mother's children, of which there were five, were born under Grandpa's roof, except myself who was the youngest. There being barely

13 months between the first two girls, Grandma took charge of the first

baby and kept her until she was twelve years old. A separate little colored girl was provided as nurse for each of the children.

Grandpa was in the habit of rising early and roasting potatoes in the fireplace. The children were, as soon as dressed in the morning, brought in and feasted on potatoes which he peeled and fed them.

He was distressed by the civil war and apprehensive of the freedom of slaves and the destruction of property, but I do not think that his loss was great as far as the household goods went. Nor did he suffer serious financial embarrasment as great numbers of slaves remained on the place of their own will as hired laborers.

My father and mother moved to their own home place, Dean Swamp, leaving the oldest child with Grandma and Grandpa. Within a few years the youngest child, myself, was born. When I was five months old, my Mother died of pneumonia, leaving five children. My mother's mother, Grandma Millar, and my mother's sister, Aunt Hattie Millar took me. My father kept the three others, two girls and a boy.

About three years later he married Miss Rosa Odom of Orangeburg County.

Grandfather continued hale and hearty until about 84 years of age when he was stricken with paralysis. There were three separate strokes.

When I was about 7 years old, I paid my first visit home to Dean Swamp and then to visit Grandpa at Rocky Swamp. I remember one Summer day going to grandpa's and being taken to a large front bedroom where I saw

Grandpa for the first and only time. He was sitting in a large

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armchair

near the window dressed in a white suit, shirt and trousers and with a very white face and bright blue eyes. He was fanning with a palmetto fan.

He was paralyzed and it was with great difficulty that he could speak at all.

I was presented as "Charlie's child" and he asked, "Is this Edith who stays with her grandma Millar?" Some one answered, "Yes". And he nodded

in recognition. This was almost all I ever heard him say. One of his servants was in constant attention upon him.

The next year I heard one day that there was a notice in the Charleston paper that Grandpa had died. He lived to the age of 89 years.

The will left provision for his wife and two children. There was also 50

acres of land to George Baxter, his servant who waited on him and whose

heirs are, I believe, still living on the place.

- Edith Lofton Stroman

[as a grandson of the writer, I notice several things whilst re-reading.

It is clear that my Grandmother idolized her Grandfather who, she believed, was the perfect man and father. Her own father, who had little to do with her upbringing, is hardly mentioned! However, he lost

his wife following her (Edith's) birth and may not have handled his life

very well at that point. There seem to be undercurrents of criticism by

the writer of the way her father may have failed to care for the "beautiful place" of his father and mother (overgrown bushes and flower gardens when in charge of her father). Jacob Stroman by other sources than

this one, was considered a consummate planter of his times.

Obviously, a hard act to follow! I wish that all my grandparents had written such a sketch on *their* grandparents!]

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Richard Matteson, 05:20 PM 3/9/96 -, Jacob Stroman Sketch

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Marion and others, I am going to type this account in 2 or 3 installments depending on size of each. My grandmother produced the sketch in 1907 when she was about was about 40 years old and my mother was

9 years old. As it turns out it remains one of the few narrative accounts in our SC families that represents data and insights from before

1920. I was unlucky to have been born after my grandmother died so it represents a look into her mind and especially what she must have thought was admirable and unique in her forbearers! The account gives a look at early farm/plantation living and how it was both organized and run.

Mr. Jacob Stroman of Orangeburg Co. SC

A sketch of his life written by Mrs. Richard Morrison Lofton in 1907

Jacob Stroman - born Jan. 15th, 1787
died Dec. 11th, 1877

A few incidents worthy of record in his life and dedicated to his memory

He was the only son of honest and industrious parents. There were three sisters. His father, Paul Stroman, who married Ann Baltziger about 1775, was a soldier of the Revolution and lived to the age of 93. We have heard that his father was quite a physically robust man who was proud of his strength and pleased to display his skill in breaking a fence rail across his knee. At the age of 93 he attempted to perform this feat and

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although he was successful in breaking the rail, the rebound of the broken piece struck him in the side, breaking two ribs, an injury from

which he died shortly afterwards, on Sept. 2nd, 1844.

Of my great grandmother I have heard little except that perhaps toward

the middle of her life she was troubled with a cancer of the nose-
that

someone offered a remedy which she tried and completely cured the cancer

which never returned. The nose was partially eaten off and I was told the she wore a silver nose, skillfully covering the place. These are the only incidents connected with them that I recollect. They were of Dutch origin, born in this country and plain country folks. Mr. Alex Salley, state historian, and of the same family, asserts that they were

of Dutch origin- emigrated from Switzerland and from there came to America. Grandfather was raised in Orangeburg County, South Carolina

When I was child, I remember finding an old blank book, which he had used at school and in which were the examples he must have performed. I

remember noticing the clean, neat pages. Each example correct- I saw no

erasures or blots, the figures distinct and even, the periods all in their right places. I heard the he was accustomed to use a gourd to drink

from and ate with his knife and a three pronged fork.

When quite young he was stricken with rheumatism which made him a prisoner indoors for a year. While unable to do outdoor work, a party

of Gypsies came by, from whom he learned how to make shoes, so the time

spent indoors was turned to advantage and he made and sold shoes. At the

end of a year he recovered. I have never heard that he had a return of

rheumatism. He now must have actively returned to farm work. The three

sisters all married well. I have heard that they were all notable housekeepers and admirable women.

Grandpa Stroman first married a Miss Millhouse, a woman known for

her business energy. Only one child lived to be grown, a daughter Ann,

who afterwards married her first cousin, Paul Felder. She was also noted

for her business ability, she lived to be an old lady. I met her occasionally. She died when I was a child. By the death of their parents, Grandfather was made guardian of his first cousins, Rebecca

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and
Selina, taking care of their property. One of these cousins became
his
second wife. My father's mother, Rebecca, seems to have had very poor
health and to have led a feeble life. She bore a number of babies of
whom all but one, my father, died in infancy. She died while my
father
was still a small boy, leaving her husband with two children--a
daughter,
Ann, nearly grown, and a son, my father, about 5 years old. By this
time
Grandfather had acquired considerable property in the shape of lands
and
slaves. The land he bought, I believe, mostly from the State in
uncultivated form, to which he devoted indomitable energy in clearing
and
ditching and improving. He had now built Rocky Swamp House in which
he
lived the remainder of his life and which still stands, owned by my
brother. In a business way things went well with him and he continued
buying land, the most valuable in the county and clearing it and
improving it until he was (I have been told) the largest landowner in
Orangeburg County. The same honest precision marked his business
arrangements as was seen in his school boy book of examples. He owned
a
hundred slaves who lived in two long rows of white washed houses,
strung
straight along the roadside of the house. The slaves were trained to
be
first class workers--cooks, housemaids, butlers, coachmen, plow-hands,
field workers, ditchers, carpenters, shoe-makers, butchers. The women
had a special house arranged in which to do the plantation sewing and
making of garments for the negroes, besides seamstresses for the
house,
and laundresses and those who milked the enormous herd of cattle and
made
butter and attended to the large brick dairy, in the yard by the well.
The cattle were kept in the swamp pasture, so much butter was made
that
the surplus was sent to market. At the mill, which with its pond was
on
his place, a scant mile from the house down the steep red hills in
front,
were sawed logs for shipment to Charleston and also lumber for use on
the
place. There were also attached to this a grits mill and a cotton
gin.
I have heard that Grandfather, on riding out one day, met the
lady

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who became his third wife. Whether they had been acquainted before I do not know. However, he proposed that she should marry him and she agreed so he took her up behind him on the saddle and they rode to the Preacher and were married. She was the widow of Dr. Amaker and formerly a Miss Tarrant. She was fond of and indulgent with children but never had any of her own.

She had the reputation of being a thorough housekeeper. The house was kept in scrupulous order by the numerous servants under her direction. The flower garden in which she delighted was correctly laid out bordered with box-wood and contained a collection of beautiful plants. In my girlhood days I recollect the lovely abundance and variety of the roses on neglected, overgrown bushes.

End of First Message
